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November 9, 2011

### Via E-filing

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown Chief, Section of Administration Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20423 Office of Proceedings

NOV 9 - 2011

Part of Public Record

Re:

Notice of Exemption to Abandon a portion of the Norman Branch Line from M.P. 447, near Antoine, to the end of the Line at M.P. 479.2, near Birds Mill, in Clark, Pike and Montgomery Counties, Arkansas, STB Docket No. AB-1076X

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please be advised that Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc. (AKMD) was offered the right to reacquire the above-referenced segment of the Norman Branch line pursuant to the feeder line provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 10907. I am attaching a copy of a letter, dated October 7, 2011, addressed to you from AKMD's legal counsel that confirms compliance with the aforesaid provisions.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Streeter

RHS:rs

cc: All Concerned Parties

Attachments

# FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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October 7, 2011

#### **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re:

Finance Docket No. 32479

Caddo Antoine and Little Missouri Railroad Company — Feeder Line Acquisition — Arkansas Midland Railroad Company Line Between Gurdon and Birds Mill, AR

Dear Ms. Brown:

Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc. ("AKMD") submits this letter to inform the Board that AKMD has exercised its statutory right of first refusal to reacquire a portion of a rail line previously sold under the feeder line provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 10907.

Pursuant to authority granted in the above-captioned feeder line docket, Caddo Valley Railroad Company ("CVR") on September 1, 2000 acquired AKMD's so-called "Norman Branch" extending approximately 52 miles from Gurdon to Birds Mill, Arkansas. See Caddo Antoine et al. -- Feeder Line Acq. -- Arkansas Midland RR, 4 S.T.B. 326 (1999), 4 S.T.B. 610 (2000), aff'd sub nom. GS Roofing Products Co. v. STB, 262 F.3d 767 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001). A subsequent Board proceeding confirmed and construed AKMD's statutory right of first refusal with respect to the Norman Branch under 49 U.S.C. § 10907(h). See Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc. -- Petition for Declaratory Order -- Caddo Valley Railroad Company, Finance Docket No. 34865 (STB served May 2, 2007), aff'd sub nom. Caddo Valley R. Co. v. STB, 512 F.3d 1021 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008).

On September 29, 2011, pursuant to its rights under Section 10907(h), AKMD reacquired the segment of the Norman Branch extending from milepost 426.88 in Gurdon to milepost 429.45 north of Gurdon (the "Southern Segment"). As part of the same transaction, AKMD waived its statutory rights with respect to the remainder of the Norman Branch (the "Northern Segment"). CVR is proceeding with abandonment of the Northern Segment in Docket No. AB-1076X and Docket No. AB-1076 (Sub-No. 1X), both shortly to be filed with the Board.

## FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown October 7, 2011 Page 2

AKMD previously had obtained local trackage rights on the Southern Segment. Arkansas Midland Railroad Company. Inc. -- Trackage Rights Exemption -- Caddo Valley Railroad Company, Finance Docket No. 35530 (STB served June 14, 2011). Those trackage rights merged into AKMD's ownership of the Southern Segment once AKMD consummated its reacquisition of the line. See Norfolk and Western Railway Company -- Acquisition Exemption -- Consolidated Rail Corporation, Finance Docket No. 32957 (STB served August 15, 1996) at 1, n.3.

AKMD is filing this letter for informational purposes. No separate Board approval or exemption is required for AKMD's reacquisition of the Southern Segment pursuant to its right of first refusal under 49 U.S.C. § 10907(h). Cheney Railroad Company, Inc. -- Feeder Line Acquisition -- CSX Transportation, Inc. Line Between Greens and Ivalee, AL, Finance Docket No. 31012 (ICC served March 11, 1994).

A copy of this letter has been served on counsel for CVR. Please feel free to contact me should any questions arise regarding this matter.

Shomas J. Litwiler

Attorney for Arkansas Midland Railroad Company, Inc.

TJL:tl

cc: Richard H. Streeter, Esq.